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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

ALBANIAN WORKERS' CONDITIONS IMPROVE

ALBANIAN WORKERS MAKE GAINS -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 4 Jan 53

Pilo Peristeri, chief of the Albanian trade unions, speaking of the successes achieved by Albanian workers in 1952, reported the following:

Competition has been introduced among 228 workers collectives, containing about 54,000 workers. Hundreds of brigades are fulfilling their pledges in honor of the 19th Congress of the Communist Party of the USSR and the Congress of Nations for the Defense of Peace.

The leading-worker movement, embracing more than 24,000 workers, is contributing to economic improvement. The Stakhanovite movement includes over 2,700 workers who have thus become the best propagandists for Soviet methods. Among the Soviet methods in use by 22,000 Albanian workers are those of Zhandarov, Agafanov, Levchenko, and Mukhanov. As an example of the higher level of technical training, in just 2 months, more than 800 rationalization suggestions, which will save the state about 34 million leks, have been made by workers. In 1952, the number of white- and blue-collar workers rose 17.3 percent, while the wage fund increased 18.7 percent.

A considerable improvement has occurred in the material and cultural living conditions of the worker. For example, more than 31,700 square meters of living quarters have been erected for these workers. In 9 months of 1952, some 30 percent more capital was allotted for social insurance than during a similar period in 1951. Thousands of workers and their families made use of the rest houses available for them. Dozens of clubs, moving picture houses, libraries, and cultural centers were at their disposition.

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SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR ALBANIAN WORKING WOMEN -- Moscow, Moskovskiy Komsomolets, 13 Jan 53

In an interview with a correspondent of the Albanian Telegraph Agency on the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the proclamation of the Albanian People's Republic, Vito Kapo, deputy president of the Union of Albanian Women, made the following statement about the benefits conferred on Albanian women by the national government.

Article 17 of the Albanian Constitution grants women equal rights with men in all walks of life, individual, political, and social. More than 25,000 women are working in various sectors of the national economy. Seventeen women are deputies in the National Assembly; 1,931 are deputies in local people's councils; hundreds have been elected to serve in the people's courts. Many women have been promoted to leading positions in state and party work.

State agencies are deeply interested in the welfare of women and children. Women are given 3 months' leave with pay during pregnancy and receive assistance for the newborn infants. In 9 months of 1952, over 22 million leks were spent for such assistance and leaves. Ninety maternity homes and wards, 78 in rural districts, have been opened. The establishment of hundreds of public nurseries and kindergartens is making active participation of women in production possible.

ALBANIAN WOMEN ACTIVE IN BUILDING NEW LIFE -- Vilnius, Sovetskaya Litva, 8 Apr 53

The Fifth Plenum of the General Council of the Union of Albanian Women was held in Tirana [date unspecified] to discuss the results of the cultural-political activities of the union in 1952 and its problems in 1953.

Nefo [transliteration from Russian] Myftiu, secretary-general of the union, presented the report on the activities of the union. The data brought forward in the report showed the increased participation of women in production and their political and cultural growth. In 1952, some 25,000 women were employed in production. About 3,400 of this number became leading workers and Stakhanovites.

In 1953, the number of women employed in production will reach 35,000. The women's organization of Albania will supply 680 persons to the textile industry, more than 400 to medical institutions, and more than 150 to commercial organizations.

At present, 100,000 women have become literate.

Some 200 kindergartens and 100 day nurseries have been established in the country. During the last 2 years, more than 48 million leks in aid have been distributed to mothers of large families and to unmarried women.

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